

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 17 March 1972 ^{25X1}

SUBJECT Arrival of T-54 Tanks

NO. OF PAGES 2

25X1

**PLACE
ACQUIRED**

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

25X1

DATE OF INFO.

**SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.**

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. On 17 October 1954, a total of approximately 20 tanks of a new type were observed for the first time in the Soviet Zone when units of the 6th Gds Tank Div returned to Wittenberg from fall exercises.
2. [redacted] 4 shipments, the load of which exceeded standard measurements, were expected to arrive from the USSR via Frankfurt/Oder on 4 November, [redacted] bound for Zeithain, No 251/27066 for Meinsdorf, No 251/27067 for Altruppin and No 251/27068 for Satzkorn. Since the receiving stations are posts of tank divisions (9th Tank Div, 7th Gds Tank Div, 12th Gds Tank Div and 10th Gds Tank Div), it was concluded that the shipments involved tanks. On 13 November, this assumption was confirmed by the observation of 10 tanks unloaded in Satzkorn [redacted] and 15 tanks in Altruppin. In spite of special security and camouflage measures, (unloading at night, covering of the tanks by tarpaulins, cordoning off of the station) it was observed in Satzkorn that the unloaded tanks were of a new type.
3. Prior to early January, tanks of the new type were observed seventeen times, definitely with units of the 6th Gds Tank Div, the 9th Tank Div, the 10th Gds Tank Div and the 12th Gds Tank Div. The tanks were not observed with the 7th Gds Tank Div [redacted]. There are indications that tanks of the new type also arrived for the 25th Tank Div in Prenzlau.
4. Available information indicates that each of the above-mentioned tank divisions received approximately 10 tanks of the new type, probably for training of instruction personnel prior to a general re-equipping of tank divisions.
5. It is noted that a tank of the new type was shipped from Satzkorn (10th Gds Tank Div) to Eberswalde on 24 December. Since elements of the 6th Gds Mecz Div are quartered in Eberswalde, this observation may indicate that the mechanized divisions are also scheduled to be re-equipped.

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6. The new tank is described as follows:

general impression: stubby, rounded froms

length : 6,900 mm)

width : 3,279 mm)

height : 2,750 mm)

25X1

chassis : similar to a T-34 tank, 5 large bogie wheels, drive wheel in the rear

turret : turtle-shaped, 2 commander's cupolas

gun : caliber 85 - 100 mm, conical barrel, 3 to 3.5 meters long, without muzzle brake

front armament : from turret frontward slightly slanting, driver's hatch at the left in front of the turret

engine : duller in sound than the engine of JS-1 through JS-3 tanks

It is assumed that the new tanks are T-54s.

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